Fall in customs duty collection

976. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a sharp fall in the custom duty collection at the international airports in the country during this year;

(b) if so, the month-wise position in each international airport, till date;

(c) what was the position during the same period last year; and

(d) the reasons for the sharp decline in the customs duty collection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) The information is being collected from the field formations.

Increase in fiscal deficit

977. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the revenue deficit as percentage of fiscal deficit has been on the increase during the last five years;

(b) whether this increase in fiscal deficit is being used for creating assets;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether economy has become vulnerable as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (d) The details of revenue deficit and share of capital expenditure in total expenditure during the last five years are shown in the following table. Despite increase in revenue deficit as percentage of fiscal deficit, capital expenditure as percentage of total expenditure during the last five years has been maintained at over 15 percent. The Government is conscious of the need for better fiscal management to contain non-plan revenue expenditure and increase revenue receipts. With a view to achieve fiscal consolidation, the Budget for 2001-02 emphasises